

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CHULA VISTA SAFETY COMMISSION**

**October 9, 2008  
6:00 p.m.**

**Community Room  
Chula Vista Police Department Headquarters**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 6:15 p.m.

**1. Roll Call:**

Present: Chair Liken; Commissioners Cochrane, Johnson, Moriarty, and Perrett

Absent: Commissioner Caudillo and Navarro

Also present: Frank Rivera, Principal Civil Engineer; Muna Cuthbert, Senior Civil Engineer; Gary Wedge, Police Captain; Karin Schmerler, Sr. Public Safety Analyst; and Florence Picardal, Recording Secretary

**2. Pledge of Allegiance/Silent Prayer**

**3. Opening Statement**

Opening statement read by Chair Liken.

**4. Approval of Minutes: October 9, 2008**

**MSC (Moriarty/Cochrane)** to accept the minutes of August 14, 2008 as submitted. (4-0-2-1, Caudillo/Navarro absent; Perrett abstain)

**5. Oral Communications**

None.

**MEETING AGENDA**

**6. Report on Request for Time Restricted Parking on Brisbane Avenue as part of the Police Department's Safe City Effort** (Time certain at 6:30 p.m. in order to accommodate Councilmember Ramirez's schedule)

Traffic Engineering was approached by the Chula Vista Police Department and asked to help with their Safe City Project aimed at reducing crime and disorder in a commercial area in northwest Chula Vista. After meeting with Police Department staff to better understand the issues facing the area, Traffic Engineering is proposing the installation of a time restricted loading zone along Brisbane Street aimed at improving pedestrian and motorist safety in the area, as well as implementation of minor traffic calming techniques aimed at reducing vehicle speeds and improving overall safety in the area

**Staff Recommendation:** Safety Commission accept report and recommend the installation of a time restricted loading zone and other, minor traffic calming techniques, along Brisbane Street

Police Captain Gary Wedge and Sr. Public Safety Analyst Karin Schmerler gave a detailed presentation of the Chula Vista Safe City Project, a partnership between police, businesses, and community partners to reduce crime and disorder in a commercial area in northwest Chula Vista. This item focuses on the area on Brisbane Avenue.

Since its creation, the Chula Vista Police Department, working with the National City Police Department, have surveyed more than 50 businesses to learn about their concerns in the focus area. In addition, several in-depth "Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design" (CPTED) assessments were completed to fully understand the challenges facing the area.

Currently, the Police Department is addressing several issues surrounding day laborers that routinely congregate along the Brisbane corridor. Six of the eight local businesses directly impacted by day laborers along Brisbane Street were “very concerned” about the issue. The day laborers that congregate in the area have their own concerns as well, several of which are very similar to concerns raised by the local businesses. Discussions between Police Department and Traffic Engineering staff about an organized day laborer site focused on three main topics: Location, Organization, and Public Safety.

Location:

Traffic Engineering proposes a day laborer gathering site be placed on the north side of Brisbane Street adjacent to a currently vacant parcel that is outside of the 500' buffer zone where there is a large amount of sidewalk for laborers to congregate, and a sufficient amount of room for vehicles to pull over without blocking traffic.

Organization:

In order for the day laborer gathering site to be effective, it must be organized in a manner that allows for an easy, fast transaction between the laborers and their clients. The following design features are proposed:

- *Green Curb*; In order to clearly identify the location vehicles can pull over to discuss potential jobs with laborers, staff proposes the installation of 60' of green curb signifying a loading zone. Sixty feet should accommodate approximately three vehicles at a time, as well as larger moving trucks or vehicles towing trailers.
- *Time Restrictions*; Time restrictions will be clearly marked by three signs evenly spaced along the 60' loading zone. Each sign will say “No Parking Any Time, Passenger Loading and Unloading Only, 12 Minute Limit, Do Not Leave Vehicles Unattended.” Similar signs have been effectively used elsewhere in the City.
- *Red Curb*; Staff proposes painting approximately 20' to 30' of red curb on either side of the loading zone to keep vehicles from parking in close proximity to the site, potentially restricting access in or out.

Public Safety

To address the potential safety concern for vehicles pulled over in the proposed loading zone, staff proposes the following traffic calming measures:

- *Curve Warning w/ Speed Advisory Sign*; The installation of a curve warning sign with a 15 mph advisory speed to help make drivers more aware of the sharp curve in the road, and that a reduced speed through the curve is advised. The sign would be placed facing traffic entering the curve in the eastbound direction.
- *Enhanced Striping*; To help keep vehicles on a safe path through the curve, staff proposes painting the shoulder of the curve with white diagonal hatching. The striping pattern would be painted in a manner that would guide cars through the curve along a tight turning radius to keep vehicles from taking a path that could lead them directly into the loading zone.
- *Double Double-Yellow Centerline Striping*; While the curve warning sign and enhanced striping described above should improve overall safety within the 90-degree curve, City staff was concerned about the number of vehicles making u-turns along Brisbane Street in close proximity to the curve. In an effort to eliminate this hazardous behavior, staff proposes modifying the centerline stripe to a double double-yellow stripe, with breaks in the stripe to allow for access in and out of driveways

The report concluded that a specific location for day laborers to congregate could help address several of the issues raised by both local businesses and day laborers alike. A specific day laborer site would help organize the laborers into one location and eliminate the problem of laborers blocking business driveways. In addition, providing an organized, easily accessible location for laborers to meet with potential clients

should help reduce vehicle swarming, and improve overall safety for motorists and laborers alike. It is important to note that, in addition to the improvements proposed by Traffic Engineering staff, the Police Department is continuing their efforts to change the environment along Brisbane Street. These efforts include additional signs addressing littering, as well as alcohol and drugs, that will hopefully help the day laborers "self police" and reduce behavior that businesses and laborers both feel is problematic. In addition, the Police Department will be working with the laborers to try and establish a more organized approach to winning work in an effort to further reduce vehicle swarming.

**Commission Discussion:**

**Public hearing opened.**

The following persons spoke in favor of staff recommendation:

1. Jim Ladouceur, RCP Block & Brick, 75 North Fourth Avenue. - Would like loading zone moved further to the north, if possible. Also, would like striping left for the yellow zone in front of the business. Another problem not addressed is motor homes parking in the area.
2. Rudy Ramirez, City of Chula Vista Councilmember - Councilmember Ramirez thanked the Safety Commissioners for their service and the Police Dept. for a great program and presentation. He mentioned the Police Dept. accepted an award from the Attorney General's Office for Safe City Project Crime Prevention Program of the Year. He stated is a member on the "Public Safety Subcommittee" and heard this same presentation a few months ago. The Subcommittee was very impressed with the program. He stated this is the best example of proactive problem solving that ultimately allows the City to stretch its very scarce resources. He thanked the local businesses that were present.

**Public hearing closed.**

Commissioner Cochrane asked if there were any stipulations placed on the day laborers to not gather around the rear gate of RCP. He mentioned he has noticed this problem in recent trips to the business. Police Captain Wedge responded the laborers are self-policing themselves and they are working on organizing themselves.

Chair Liken asked if the loading zone adjacent to RCP on the west side would be changed. Principal Civil Engineer Rivera responded no changes were proposed. Chair Liken asked Police Captain Wedge if there have been any studies conducted on which businesses most of the laborers are targeting for work. Captain Wedge responded, RCP and U-Haul. He added that it's not just businesses in the area. This area is just one of those recognized locations for day laborers. Most of the day laborers are hired by people looking for help around the house, help with moving, etc. Chair Liken stated the partnership between the City, businesses and day laborers is a win-win situation and congratulated the Police Dept. on the program and the award from Sacramento.

Commissioner Moriarty asked what were the chances of implementing this program at other locations in the City. Police Captain Wedge stated the dept. is aware of another day laborer gathering center in the east (Home Depot). They have had requests to replicate this program in other parts of the City. He explained that this program is very labor intensive.

**MSC (Perrett/Moriarty)** to concur with staff recommendation. (5-0-2, Caudillo/Navarro absent)

**7. Response to Mrs. Theresa Acerro, President of Southwest Chula Vista Civic Association, Regarding Diesel Truck Idling Complaints**

Principal Civil Engineer Rivera stated that Police Agent Rea responded to her with a letter dated August 29, 2008. Agent Rea also contacted Mrs. Accero via telephone call to discuss the specifics of her request. Chair Liken accepted the letter into record.

**8. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Chair Liken stated this item has been delayed and requested future elections be calendared as soon as practical after July 1 of each year.

**MSC (Perrett/Moriarty)** to nominate Commissioner Liken as Chair. (5-0-2, Caudillo/Navarro absent)

**MSC (Liken/Moriarty)** to nominate Commissioner Perrett as Vice Chair. (5-0-2, Caudillo/Navarro absent)

**9. Traffic Engineering CIP Project Update**

Principal Civil Engineer Rivera gave a brief report on the following CIP traffic projects:

Major Intersection Safety Program (TF-360)

Harborside Elementary Pedestrian (TF-368)

Kids Walk and Bike to School (TF-362)

Fourth Avenue Street Light Improvements between "L" Street and Orange Avenue (TF-307)

L Street Improvements between Monserate Avenue to Nacion Avenue, Relocation and Replacement of Street Lights (STL-328)

Safe Route to School, Rice/Otay Elementary Schools (TF-361)

Traffic Signal Installation at Brandywine Avenue and Sequoia Street (TF-335)

Traffic Signal Modifications and Pedestrian Ramps Installation at Fourth/Main & Fourth/Beyer (TF-330)

**10. Traffic Accident Summary**

The summary was accepted into record. There was a fatality last night (10-8-08) at the 200 block of Palomar.

**11. Action Summary Update**

Principal Civil Engineer reported the 30 mph speed sign at Hidden Vista Drive was installed on 8-18-08. He reported the all-way stop was installed at the intersection of Smoky Circle and Hidden Vista Drive and the responsible entities were asked to trim back the landscaping. The installation of red curb at several driveway entrances along Oxford Street and the installation of 2-hour time limited parking along a portion of Oxford Street between Wal-Mart's driveways was completed in September.

**12. Potential Projects - Bicycle Transportation Grant Funds (BTA)**

The City recently received a \$135,630 Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) grant from CALTRANS for installation of bicycle lanes on Industrial Boulevard. This grant provides for citywide bicycle amenities such as replacement bus-mounted bike racks, roadway signage for bicycle facilities and traffic signal video detection units in order to encourage alternative modes of transportation.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**13. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Perrett asked a question re: Heritage/Telegraph Canyon Road. Principal Civil Engineer Rivera responded. *(Comment was not audible on recording.)*

Chair Liken stated he attended the Mayor's Breakfast on October 2nd. He went over the Boards and Commissions Rules and Ethics, and gave specific examples of appropriate and inappropriate behavior. *(Comments were not audible on recording.)*

**14. Staff Comments**

Principal Civil Engineer Rivera noted the following items will be on the November 13 agenda.

- a. SANDAG Rapid Service, Brandywine south of Palomar
- b. Intersection Broadway/Main & 27th

**ADJOURNMENT AT 7:36 P.M.** to the next scheduled meeting of November 13, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Florence Picardal".

Florence Picardal, Recording Secretary